EDITORIAL NOTES.

We fully intended to publish the papers and discussions of the National Veterinary Association, and as a commencement we gave the first paper—"On Comparative Pathology"—last week. On application to the shorthand reporters we find that a full report would be equal to twelve columns of the *Times*. Our space will not allow this, but we shall endeavour to publish some of the most interesting portions of each paper, and some of the remarks made during the discussion.

The Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to enquire into Pleuro-Pneumonia and Tuberculosis in the United Kingdom, has been issued. The price is 3½d., and it may be obtained either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, Westminster; from Messrs. Adam and Charles Black, Edinburgh; or from Messrs. Hodges, Figgis & Co., Dublin. The members of the committee were Jacob Wilson, Esq., Sir G. Macpherson Grant, J. Bowen Jones, Esq., P. Stirling, Esq., Victor Horsley, Esq., Professor Brown, Lord Cloncurry and Richard Dawson, Esq., as Secretary. The Committee met for the first time on April 17th, and from time to time up to June 4th. They sat for 17 days and examined 44 witnesses. The witnesses included—Local Authorities 3, Farmers 10, Veterinary Surgeons 10, Dairyman 4, Medical Officers 5, Colonial Stockowners 6, Land owners 1, Government Veterinary Officials 3,—one of whom was from Holland. Certainly a representative and competent body.

The Committee say,—"We recognise that the two subjects referred to us, Pleuro-Pneumonia and Tuberculosis, are of the highest interest and importance, not only to the stockowners of the United Kingdom, but also to the public at large. We believe that if our recommendations be firmly carried out Pleuro-Pneumonia may, within a moderate period be exterminated in this country; and although we cannot dare to indulge in such sanguine expectations with regard to Tuberculosis, we still venture to hope that much may be done to reduce its extent, and to minimise a disease so dangerous alike to animals and to mankind." On another page we print the "Summary of Recommendations" and shall either in this or our next number attempt a *resumé* of the committee's report on the two diseases. By doing so we trust we shall only whet our readers' appetite for more, and that all our members will obtain a copy of the report and study it for themselves.

This week no less than three meetings of Veterinary Societies are held, only one of which we were able to announce in time. We should be very glad to receive from Secretaries a note enabling us to give publicity to all coming meetings, and trust that by doing so more attention would be drawn to them. We also beg our readers to send us short clinical reports of their interesting cases. Promises come freely but the papers very slowly. If our weekly is to be made interesting it can only be by the contributions of practitioners—a journal becomes stale, if not insipid, when there is too much from one pen.

The Editor finds it impossible to reply to all the letters he has received, and takes this opportunity to thank his correspondents for their good wishes and promised assistance. The numerous suggestions will be considered and every effort made to give effect to the more practical ones. We believe our second number was an improvement on our first, and only inability prevents us from making the journal quite worthy of its aim. We do not aim at equalling the scientific standard or general excellence of Prof. McFadyean's "Quarterly" nor shall we attempt to compete with our two established "Monthlies" in style and solidity.

Something really ought to be done for our Register. Sending our first number to every name on the list, we have had returned no less than 96 copies addressed to places in Great Britain and Ireland. "Deceased," "gone away," "no address," "not known," are the post-office marks on the wrappers. Now this is not the fault of the Registrar, but the carelessness of members who when they change their address should communicate with Mr. Hill, at Red Lion Square. In addition to these there are a number of names whose only address is "late London," or "late Manchester," or "late Army," and a few who seem to fancy they are well enough known to be found with simply "Africa" or "America" following such uncommon names as Smith, Jones, &c., &c. Please don't all write at once to the registrar as Mr. Hill is a hard-worked official whose genial good nature deserves not to be strained by a flood of correspondence.

CLINICAL NOTES.

"Careful observation makes a skilful practitioner but his skill dies with him. By recording his observations he adds to the knowledge of his profession, and assists by his facts in building up the solid edifice of Pathological Science."

STRONGYLUS TETRACANTHUS.

BY A. J. ROGERS, M.R.C.V.S.

The following case is I think rather an uncommon one, and on that account may be of interest. For ten days I had been treating for Catarrhal fever, a big bay carriage gelding, five years old. He was making what I considered a fair recovery until May 9th, when I was called to him at 1.15 a.m. I found him uneasy, lying down and getting up frequently, looking round at the flank, in fact showing symptoms of abdominal pain, but not of a very acute character. Pulse 52, Temp. 106½. The pain seemed relieved after I had given a sedative and I left him with an attendant watching. At 4 a.m. I was again called to him and found the animal in pain of a rather more acute form. Pulse 54, Temp. 106. Another sedative draught was given and the pain passed away. At 11 a.m. I saw him again when Pulse had dropped to 48, Temp. 103¼, he was taking his mash and quite free from pain. I now continued the salines that I had previously been giving. At 10.30 p.m. I was

again called and found the horse blowing hard. Pulse 58, Temp. 105. As the stable was all shut in, windows and ventilators closed, with two gas burners in full blaze, I thought I would try the effect of fresh air and plenty of body clothing and bandages. As a result I had the satisfaction of seeing his breathing considerably quieten down before I left him. The following day the horse was looking much better, breathing nearly normal Pulse 40, Temp. 100½. While I was in the stable the horse passed some rather soft fœces, with which I noticed a great number of small worms, proving on examination to be Strongylus Tetracanthus. I now gave some Ferri Sulpt and Gentian, and for two days the horse passed a very great number of these parasites. The animal made a good recovery and was out of my hands and at work by May 18th.

When the fœces were first passed the worms were seen by me in hundreds all "actively moving" and of a red colour. I picked out one and examined it, in ten minutes returning to secure some more specimens, to my astonishment I could not see one, and it took me three-quarters of an hour to get about a dozen. The cause being that they were now all motionless, and very much like the pieces of woody fibre with which they were mixed. May this not lead to their being overlooked on many occasions? The high temperature of 106½ with its sudden fall is rather a strange feature in the case, I think it must have had connection with the presence of the worms. That the pain was caused by them I think there can be no doubt. There was no purging but the evacuations were as loose as usually passed by horses fed on soft food. The horse was a gross feeder, eating his litter habitually.

THE RELATION OF BOVINE TO HUMAN TUBERCULOSIS.

The Congress to be held in Paris relative to the subject of Tuberculosis, and especially bearing upon the possibility of the infection of the human subject by the injection of animal tuberculous material, must prove of great interest, as it will serve to focus the opinions of physicians and veterinary surgeons hailing from all quarters.

Past experiments, from the time of Villeuin, to the evidences of Zürn and Bollinger, have demonstrated, sufficiently clearly, the communicability of the disease to susceptible animals by the injection of tuberculous material variously derived amongst themselves.

What is now required is *absolute proof of human infection from an animal source*, and this, from the value justly placed upon human life, is as far from practical realization as it ever has been,

If it is assumed that the domesticated animals are individually liable to a disease, clinically and in every other respect, resembling human *consumption*, and if further than this, as referred to above, we have undoubted evidence of the transmission of the disease from one species to another by the injection of their several tissues and secretions. Can the human subject logically claim immunity from contagion?

Admitting the bare possibility of such a contingency—and bovine tubercle is on the increase—we are warranted I think in advocating sanitary precautions.

With regard to the determination of the crucial problem:—*are human beings under any circumstances liable to bovine tubercle*—Would it not be possible as suggested by Dr. Fleming in the *Lancet*, overcoming public prejudice and pseudo-philanthropy, to so utilize the persons of condemned criminals as to put the matter beyond doubt. This suggestion, far from being cruel, does not entail the infliction of the slightest inconvenience or even consciousness of an experiment upon the part of the individuals concerned.

A month or so ago the Medical Society of York courteously invited local veterinary surgeons to a discussion upon this subject, and there, as here, I terminated my moiety of the discussion, by a few practical suggestions, warranted I think by our present knowledge of tubercle as it jointly affects men and animals. I would suggest an amendment with regard to the Contagious Diseases Animals' Act, embodying tuberculosis and providing that:

Cohabitation of healthy animals with those believed to be tuberculous be prevented by isolation.

That cattle slightly affected be fattened and killed, and their flesh if free from disease, be allowed in the market.

That all diseased milk be proscribed,

That tuberculous flesh be condemned.

And lastly, that competent additional officers be provided by local authorities for the carrying out of such laws, and the periodical inspection of dairy cows.

To look upon diseased meat as a source of contagion of tubercle, may not be entirely warranted by experiment. It is at any rate safe. Milk however, forming as it does the staple food of invalids and infants, must be recognized as a dangerous medium for the communication of a horrible malady to those who are unfortunately susceptible.

FITZPATRICK EASSIE, M.R.C.V.S.

RECTAL CONCRETIONS IN DOGS.

By JOHN ATKINSON, F.R.C.V.S.

In no other domestic animal do we meet with rectal concretion as a definite disease, save the dog. The symptoms are well marked, as the animal frequently stops and makes fruitless efforts to dislodge the offending mass. The repeated straining unaccompanied as it is by any marked constitutional disturbance or other signs of disease is diagnostic. Examination with the finger per rectum reveals a hard fœcal mass distending the intestines. This mass consists of imperfectly digested bones, and is seldom seen except in house dogs that are allowed to eat quantities of cancellated bone, such as forms the bulk of mutton-chop bones. Insufficient exercise certainly predisposes to this form of impaction, and some dogs are subject to recurrent attacks. Habitual constipation frequently leads to distension of the rectum, and

sometimes to the formation of comparatively large sacs in the intestine just within the anus. Even ordinary fœcal matter collects in such cases but is generally readily removed by enemas. When the concretion is formed of half-digested bone enemas alone are insufficient to effect its removal, and it is necessary to break down the mass. In some cases this may be done with the finger alone, but in most some instrument is required, and I find nothing handier than the handle of a spoon. The breaking down and removal is always much facilitated by using an enema of oil and warm water. In my practice as soon as I have partially broken down the concretion, I give an enema and release the dog until he has ejected it with all the loose matter, then having secured the patient, proceed to break up the remainder and again inject. Sometimes three or four enemas are required to effect the complete removal of the concretion. The anus is always very sore for some days afterwards, and a little zinc ointment may with advantage be applied twice daily. Food must be given of a digestible nature, and a mild aperient should be administered. I consider it bad practice to give a purgative until the concretion is broken up and removed, as great pain is caused by the violent peristaltic action set up and purging may take place without the concretion passing through the anus—fluid fœcal matter finding its way past the mass. In some cases the hardened mass when touched by the finger, unless the dog strain at the time, recedes beyond reach only however to return immediately. This is prevented to some extent by an assistant grasping the dog's abdomen and pressing it upwards and backwards.

GOVERNMENT VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1887.

A brief notice of this report cannot but be interesting to our readers.

The strength in troop forces at the end of 1887 was

Home	... ...	13,018 troop horses
,,	... ...	1,631 chargers
Egypt	... ...	1,022 horses
,,	... ...	867 mules
,,	... ...	421 camels
South Africa	...	633 horses and mules
,,	...	77 chargers

The mortality from all causes was 2·05 per cent., the greatest mortality was in the Military Mounted Police, where it only rose to 5 per cent.

The total number under treatment was 8,703, and the average number of days each horse remained under treatment was 18. The classification of the sickness and lameness is done very minutely, we copy merely the abstract.

Class 1	General Diseases	519	Class 9	Skin Diseases	299
2	Respiratory ,,	1229	10	Limbs ,,	2721
3	Circulatory ,,	93	11	Contagious	582
4	Urinary ,,	7	12	Visual ,,	87
5	Generatus ,,	6	13	Accidents	2679
6	Digestive ,,	437			
7	Liver & System	5			8703
8	Nervous ,,	39			

Referring to the detailed tables of each class, we find that

In Class 1 Catarrhal Fever accounts for 230 cases, whilst simple and bilious Fevers are credited with 120.

In Class 2 Catarrh heads the list with 811. Pneumonia and Pleurisy come next with 160. Laryngitis 76, and "Hyperœmia pulmo" 45. Of 'Roarers' there are 54, and it is interesting to note that in his remarks on "Cast Horses" the Principal Veterinary Surgeon to the Forces, says, "Attempts are now being made to abolish this cause of inefficiency by an operation on the larynx, which I have introduced, and which I have reason to hope will be successful. If so it will prove a boon of much value not only to our mounted corps, but to breeders and owners of horses generally."

Class 3—Diseases of the Circulatory Apparatus—is made up of 16 cases affecting the Heart and Blood vessels and 77 of Lymphangitis. Dr. Fleming very justly claims that class 6 with only 437 cases is evidence of the very sound and careful management given to the horses by our army. This is made all the clearer in the detailed table when we find that the numbers are augmented by crib-biting, wind-sucking, worms, and irregularities of the teeth. Amongst all these cases of diseases of the digestive apparatus there is only one of intestinal calculus.

In Class 8 Vertigo and Paralysis are the chief diseases, of Tetanus there are 5 cases of which two died, and one was destroyed.

In Class 9 Ringworm affected 102 horses, and is traceable to remounts from Ireland. Cracked heels numbered 80, Stearrhea (grease) 22, and Eczema 20. Not a single case of mange existed, and only 8 in which Pediculi were found.

Class 10 shows the largest number of cases and is divided into no less than 43 divisions, embracing all the diseases and accidents of the foot and limb. Wounds Bruises, Sprains, &c., account for most of these, and are fairly described as non-preventible. That the farriers do their work well is indicated by Corns showing only 45, and Punctures in Shoeing only 31. The result of the casualities in this long list was, incurable 122, died 2, destroyed 66, and of these, fractures accounted for 40—the bone most frequently fractured being the tibia, and next the radius.

Class 11 consisting as it does of the contagious diseases is one of the most important and interesting in the report. The total number of cases is 582, made up of Strangles 406, Epizootic Fever 151, and influenza 24. Commenting upon this class Dr. Fleming says, "Most noteworthy is the circumstance that there was not a case of Glanders among army horses in the United Kingdom during the past four years o o o So far as I am aware this is the first year in the history of the British Army in which Glanders has not been reported o o o So far

as I can learn the British Army is the only one in Europe, if not in the world, in which Glanders is not present to a more or less considerable extent."

This is something indeed to be proud of, and we have no hesitation in saying that the Principal V.S. and his staff deserve the very greatest praise. The least the War Office can do is to officially notice this triumph of the Veterinary Department. None but those who practically understand Glanders can properly appreciate the unremitting care, and the trained intelligence which must have been brought to bear to achieve such a success. Unfortunately our Indian Army is not clear, nor has the disease been quite stamped out in Egypt, so that another war may again be accompanied by the usual frightful expence and inefficiency resulting from the outbreak of Glanders. Comparisons between ourselves and the foreigner are so often to our disadvantage that it is quite refreshing to find even one department that far surpasses them. Is it our insular conceit that suggests there are a few other matters in which we are *nulli secundus?*

Class 13 includes 32 different forms of surgical disease and accident varying in degree from fractured skull to crupper-gall. The whole 2679 only lead to 19 deaths. That we are a peaceful nation is the reflection forced upon us by finding that only one horse suffered from gunshot-wound in 1887, and that even then was not a fatal case.

Classification of disease is an extremely difficult matter, and we have little fault to find with that adopted by the Army Veterinary Department, but it does seem rather fine discrimination which gives separate places to Catarrhal Fever, Epizootic Fever, and Influenza. How do they differentiate these?

Some interesting statistics concerning the ages of horses in the army are given, from which we learn that there are 25 three-year-olds, and 28 that have reached or passed twenty, whilst the greatest number are nine, and the average 8 years, 5 months. We can quite believe the aged horses may be fit and useful, but we hardly understand the policy of purchasing three-year-olds. Looking at age in relation to disease we notice that the average age of "Zymotic Diseases" admitted for treatment is 4 years and 6 months, whilst the high average of 10 years and upwards, is only found in connection with diseases classified as Nervous, Circulatory, Urinary.

Table C gives the average price realized for Cast-Horses, the regiment from which they sold and the cause of casting. The average price obtained was £9 16s. 4d., the chief causes were old age, physical unfitness, muscular disease, roaring, vice, bony deposits, sprains. We remark that five horses were sold for "Vertigo" and realised over £11 each. How many inquests resulted we do not know. *Caveat emptor* may be a good legal principle, but we cannot help saying that the War Office are not justified in selling these brutes for a paltry money return of fifty pounds a year. An animal that is dangerous to human beings, from a disease giving no warning of its advent, and no indication of its existence, ought to be shot—not sold.

Statistics are also given of the diseases affecting the army animals in Egypt and in Natal.

In Egypt the horses suffered neither from Strangles nor Influenza, but there was one case of Glanders and one of Farcy. Strange to say the fractures most common were of the phalanges; the radius escaped, and only one tibia was broken. Amongst the mules there was one case of glanders, and only one fracture. We had a notion that mules were peculiar adepts at kicking and naturally expected a heavy bill of damaged tibias. Camels are employed in Egypt, and seem tolerably free from diseases. Asthenia, mange, and sore-backs appear to be all they suffer from. What exact pathological conditions are embraced by 'asthenia' we do not know, but it is accountable for eleven of the twelve deaths occurring amongst the camels.

In Natal we find the horses suffered from the ordinary accidents and diseases, but not from glanders. or influenza. There were nine cases of Strangles. Rhuematism prevailed to the extent of 30 cases, out of an average strength of 633 horses. Anthrax is credited with 174 admissions, and 122 deaths; all but two of which were seen in the months of March, April, and May. Although figuring in the statistical tables as Anthrax this fatal disease is popularly known as the "Horse-Sickness," and Dr. Fleming in his report, says, "From a very interesting interim report which Mr. Nunn has forwarded, it would seem that the disorder is not Anthrax, and that it is not transmissible from diseased to healthy animals, by any of the channels or methods of communication known in that disease." Mr. Nunn was specially sent to Natal, for the purpose of investigating the nature of this disease, and discovering, if possible, some means of preventing it. Mr. Nunn is continuing his investigation, and his chief thinks his "final report will probably enable us to indicate what the preventive and protective measures should be." We hope so.

Space will not permit us to do more than very briefly notice one more subject referred to in the report, viz., the valuable services which are being rendered by the Veterinary School at Aldershot, in the instruction of officers and farriers. The School is under the direction of Professor F. Smith, whose work on "Veterinary Hygiene" has established his reputation as an observer, and as an authority. To him Dr. Fleming pays a well deserved compliment, which we quote as a fitting conclusion to this notice of a very interesting blue-book.

"Too much praise can scarcely be awarded to Professor Smith for the zeal and ability with which he carries out the onerous duties imposed upon him, nor must I omit to mention in a special manner, the really excellent scientific work he has already furnished by devoting himself without intermission to investigations and experimental research, which though self-imposed, and in no way related to his official duties, yet have a most important bearing on the progress of veterinary and medical science."

General regret was expressed at the Meeting of the National Veterinary Association when it was known that Mr. A. Steel's absence was due to serious hepatic disease. The announcement that he is making a rapid recovery will be widely appreciated.

EXTRACTS.

TRANSPLANTATION OF NERVE FROM THE RABBIT TO MAN.

Dr. Gersung, of Vienna, assistant to Professor Billroth, has recently performed a novel and interesting operation—the transplantation of nerve from the rabbit to man. The case has not hitherto been published in any medical journal, but owing to its general interest the bare fact had found its way into the lay newspapers. Our Vienna Correspondent has received from Dr. Gersung a verbal account of the salient points of this most remarkable operation, which has so far been conspicuously successful. The patient is Professor von Fleischl, the distinguished occupant of the chair of physiology in the University of Vienna; sixteen years ago he accidentally wounded himself while conducting a *post-mortem* examination, and severe inflammation of the whole right upper limb ensued. During the course of the disease the terminal phalanx of the thumb became gangrenous. The stump thus left was painful, and later on re-amputation was performed. This was followed by the formation of neuromata. For this condition the branches of the median nerve which supply the thumb were first resected, together with the terminal neuromata, and at a later period, when new neuromata began to develop, the central parts of the same nerves, together with the branches of the radial nerve which supply the thumb, was resected. Fresh neuromata now developed on the branches of the median nerve, which were treated, without any success whatever, by the injection of hyperosmic acid and electrolysis. Two years ago the neuromata were resected again, and the resection of the nerves was continued as far as the "ligamentum carpi volare;" on this occasion, the branches which supply the radial and the ulnar sides of the index, as well as the radial side of the middle finger, were resected to a great extent. The forefinger now became anæsthetic, except the dorsal aspect of its first phalanx, which, as is known, is supplied by the radial nerve; in the same way the whole radial side of the middle finger became anæsthetic. The pain, however, again recurred, as after the previous operations, and during the course of the second week after the last operation, the patient became aware that a fresh neuroma was developing. The suffering finally became so severe that the patient wished to undergo another operation, in order to procure, at least, temporary relief. Accordingly the following operation was performed: On March 4th the patient was put under the influence of chloroform, and the neuroma, which was situated behind the volar carpal ligament, was excised, the nerve being cut through behind the neuroma. The peripheral nerve stumps of the two digital branches above mentioned were then sought for. A rabbit was now killed, and as long a piece as possible of the sciatic nerve of the animal, with two branches into which it became divided, was dissected from it (the animal still presenting voluntary contractions). The sciatic nerve was afterwards inserted into the space between the central stump of the median nerve and its digital branches; the central end of the sciatic nerve was sutured to the connective tissue which covered the median nerve, and the two branches were sutured to the digital branches of the median nerve; the portion of nerve, measuring about 6 centimètres, which was deficient was thus made up. After the operation severe pain persisted for some hours, but then entirely subsided. Healing took place by first intention. As two months have now elapsed since the date of operation and the pain has not returned, it may be hoped that the favourable result will become a permanent one. Sensibility, moreover, is becoming re-established in the part. Dr. Gersung has postponed the publication of the case, because he wished to observe whether complete sensibility would return; he hopes with confidence that this will be the case. The ultimate result will be awaited with great interest; for if it is as favourable as now appears probable, Dr. Gersung's recommendation that the operation should be given an extended trial will doubtless be widely acted on.—*British Medical Journal.*

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

Summary of Recommendations.

It now remains for us to lay before your lordships a summary of the recommendations on the subject of pleuro-pneumonia, which we have to offer, and which are based upon the considerations above detailed.

That the system of compulsory slaughter be applied not only to all diseased cattle, but also to all cattle which have been in association with them, or otherwise in any manner exposed to the infection of disease.

Compulsory slaughter should be accompanied by supplementary measures, such as restrictions on the movement and sale of cattle within, or coming from, infected districts.

Any exception to, or modification of, the system of compulsory slaughter, as provided in the Slaughter Order, 1888, should only be applicable to cattle in the dairy yards, byres, and cowsheds of large towns, the owners or occupiers of which may claim in writing the privilege of exemption for their cattle from immediate slaughter on the following conditions:—

(1) No head of cattle that has been brought into such dairy premises shall be removed therefrom, except for the purpose of immediate slaughter.

(2) In the event of an outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia, all the diseased cattle shall be slaughtered.

(3) All the remaining cattle on such premises where an outbreak has occurred shall be branded, and regularly subjected to the thermometer test; and whenever a continous increase of temperature, rising above 104 degrees, is shown, they shall be slaughtered.

(4) No fresh cattle shall be admitted into such premises while any of the cattle thus branded remain alive.

Inoculation, for the reasons already detailed, cannot be recommended as a means of eradicating pleuro-pneumonia, nor as practicable under existing conditions. Although it is open to owners to inoculate their cattle, it should be distinctly understood that that operation shall not give them any immunity from the regulations above suggested.

The scale of compensation for animals slaughtered compulsorily should remain as at present. In the case of dairy cows, however, compensation should be awarded upon the basis of their value for dairy purposes, and not of their value to the butcher.

We recommend that, in order to put a stop to the frequent concealment of disease, a more stringent scale of penalties be put in force.

(1) That, for the first offence, the penalty should not be less than one-quarter of the present maximum penalty.

(2) For the second offence, not less than one-half.

(3) For the third offence, not less than three-quarters.

(4) The full penalty for any further offence.

The above to be irrespective of anything contained in the Summary Jurisdiction (Scotland) Act, 1881.

The administration of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act throughout the United Kingdom, so far as they refer to compulsory slaughter and to the treatment and control of animals in herds or on premises where an outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia has occured, or in the surrounding area, shall be subject to, and under the direction of a central authority.

Local authorities shall continue to exercise all the powers that they at present possess, subject to the foregoing transfer of control to the central authority in the case of an outbreak of disease.

In all cases of compulsory slaughter, compensation should be provided from a national fund, whether drawn from the Consolidated Fund, or from a national rate specially levied for this purpose. All other charges —such as for inspection, disinfection, &c.—should be defrayed from a local rate, as at present.

It is highly desirable that the system of appointing veterinary inspectors by local authorities should be amended. Under each local authority there should be one responsible inspector, and care should be taken to secure the services of duly qualified and experienced veterinary surgeons.

Throughout the United Kingdom district inspectors should be appointed by the central authority, under whose direction they shall be and to whom only they shall be responsible. Whether this system be adopted for the whole of the country or not, it is, in our opinion, highly desirable that it should be at once put into operation in those districts which we have already indicated as specially infected with disease.

A more rigorous and careful inspection of town dairies and cowsheds is most urgently needed. We consider that every encouragement should be given to the removal of such establishments from crowded centres of population, and we would suggest the advisability, where possible, of suitable buildings being erected by corporations or other authorities, and let out to dairymen and cowkeepers.

A special system of inspection, and further restrictions upon the movement of dairy cows, should be immediately established in the Dublin districts.

Wherever practicable, local authorities should be called upon to erect public abattoirs as a substitute for private slaughter-houses.

Believing, as we do, that it is only by uniformity of action that we can hope to contend successfully with pleuro-pneumonia, we desire to express our firm conviction of the desirability of vesting the administration of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts in a single governmental department, which should be sufficiently representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

In the event of its being deemed advisable to conduct an experimental inquiry into the nature of pleuro-pneumonia and its preventive treatment by inoculation we recommend that such inquiry should only be carried out under the following stringent regulations:—

(1) By a board of experts duly appointed by the Government, and on premises specially set apart and licensed for that purpose.

(2) No cattle entering such premises should ever be permitted to leave them except for the purpose of immediate slaughter, and under charge of an officer, who shall see that the slaughter is duly carried out.

VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

NORFOLK AND EASTERN COUNTIES VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A Meeting of this Society was held on July 24th, at the Red Lion Hotel, Cambridge. The President, Mr. John Hammond occupied the chair, and the minutes of last meeting, being taken as read, were signed. Nearly 20 members were present, and a number of letters of regret from others were read by the Secretary.

Some conversation occurred concerning the stained-glass window given by the Norfolk, in conjunction with other societies, to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. General regret was expressed that the colors were not in harmony with those of the other windows, and some objection was taken to the delineation of a horse forming part of the design. It was however resolved to accept the window, and to authorise the secretary to pay for it.

The next subject for consideration was—the recent election of Councilmen. Mr. Banham detailed the original compact made between six societies, for mutual help and combined action in the selection and election of members as candidates for the Council. Two societies each year selected gentlemen as candidates, communicated their names to the other societies and then the whole six, collectively recommended them and individually voted for them.

At last election it became the turn of the Lincolnshire and of the Norfolk Societies to select candidates. This was done and the other societies appealed to for the usual support. A want of unity was at once apparent, and in some quarters it was soon made evident that the assistance, which had, in previous years, been given to candidates selected by the

societies, was not to be reciprocated. In previous years the united societies had always been successful in carrying their candidates—this year they failed, and the inference is natural that the other societies had not given the support they ought to have done. If this were so, it was extremely unfair to the Lincolnshire and Norfolk Societies, who had always acted to the best of their power in assisting the nominees of other societies, and had a right to expect the same generous help and honest support that they had given. He especially complained that Mr. Jas. Simpson should have permitted himself to become a candidate in opposition to the selected men; and that too after a statement at the Norwich meeting that he did not intend to stand. He complained also that Sir H. Simpson, at a meeting of the Royal Counties Society at Reading, should have suggested that the Norfolk and Lincolnshire Societies had, in the selection of their candidates, failed to comply with some rule or custom necessary to the conjoint action of the other societies.

Wr. Wragg said he remembered Mr. Simpson's speech at Norwich, when he opposed the Norfolk Counties selection on the plea that no examiner should also be a member of Council. He also remembered his statement that he himself was not going to stand for election, and was much surprised when that gentleman appeared as a candidate.

Other members continued the discussion in a somewhat conversational manner. All appeared to think the two societies who had this year the right to selection of joint candidates had just cause of complaint, and this feeling was later expressed in a resolution, that—"The President be requested to communicate with Sir Henry and Mr. Jas. Simpson concerning their remarks at Norwich and Reading in relation to the candidature of gentlemen proposed, by the Lincolnshire and Norfolk Societies."

The President then read his inaugural address.

Gentlemen.—My first duty is to thank you, in the warmest terms at my command for the honour you have conferred upon me, in electing me to preside over our meetings during the present year, an honour which, believe me, I esteem the greater when I remember those gentlemen who have preceded me; and feeling also there are amongst you some far more capable of fulfilling the duties pertaining to the position than I am.

Living as I do in a small remote country village, four miles from the nearest Telegraph Office, with a multiplicity of business, "a quiver full of them," and the winter of life approaching, I feel you have placed me in a position difficult to fulfil with satisfaction. I must therefore ask your kind indulgence, forgiving my negligences, ignorances and shortcomings. One thing I can promise you in return, I will endeavour to emulate my predecessors for the welfare of this association.

The Norfolk and Eastern Counties Veterinary Medical Association was instituted in 1868, and in 1869 the number of members admitted was 29, viz., 20 Norfolk, 3 Suffolk, 3 Essex, 2 Cambridgeshire and 1 Lancashire. At the last meeting of the association by a singular coincidence the same number (or nearly so) of members, belonged to this association. These medical societies are represented to be harbingers of good, by the free interchange of opinion, (when conducted in a right spirit) advancing its members both mentally and socially; asperities are rubbed down, and thus a friendly understanding is promoted. Veterinary Surgeons in the Eastern Counties cannot possibly appreciate these advantages, or such indifference, such apathy, would not have crept over them. We have had however, special opportunity for seeing and hearing distinguished members of the profession from a distance, who have kindly come to take part in our meetings, and by their presence, and the value of their communications, have given vitality and interest to the proceedings.

The Register, issued 1885, showed there were 57 Veterinary Surgeons in Norfolk, 21 in Cambrideshire, 22 in Suffolk—total 101. Cannot something be done to induce these gentlemen to join us? It is often easier to diagnose a case than to prescribe a remedy; and in this matter, to which I have given some little consideration, I feel myself in that dilemma. We find the more open, the broader, the wider, the basis of prizes given at Agricultural Shows the more entries we obtain. Again, until lately the words "Norfolk" and "Suffolk" were prefixed to the name given to our Red Polls, now they are simply called "Red Polls" to the benefit of the breed. Upon the same principle, I would suggest that this Association in future be named the "Eastern Counties Veterinary Medical Association," omitting the word "Norfolk."

I am informed by Mr. Overed, that circulars were sent, some years since to veterinary surgeons residing in the Eastern Counties, but possibly during the lapse of time, many of the professional gentlemen now living in these localities are fresh comers. I would therefore propose a circular be sent to all veterinary surgeons living in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, inviting them to join us. I am confident, by this means, we should be successful in in gaining new members.

Although at present the migration of the societies' meetings has borne but little fruit, I feel certain it is a step in the right direction, and will prove sooner or later most advantageous.

I do not presume to dictate, but simply to suggest, because there are indefatigable members here, who were at the birth of this association and also at its resuscitation, and who still take the deepest interest in its success, and welfare, *palmam qui meruit ferat.* Mainly to their fostering care this Association owes its existence.

My next duty is less easily performed (not that there is any lack of material). My difficulty is to select some subject or subjects suitable for your consideration; after which I trust members present will introduce some interesting pathological specimens for our inspection and discussion.

To look back and see what changes have been wrought in almost every branch of our profession is really surprising. I am unable, and it would be impossible in the limits of your patience, to allude to all advances. I will therefore confine myself strictly to some of those in which I have had personal experience, and carried out in practice during

the 40 years I have been actively engaged as a country Veterinary Surgeon.

1.—Diseases Prevented or Mitigated in Severity.—The diseases of the bowels arising from horses being supplied with food of a coarse and indigestible nature were formerly very numerous. Barley awns, or, what is called in Norfolk "chaff," constituted a large proportion of their dry provender, and this without the admixture of other substances of a less irritating and more digestible character. Acting on my advice, several of my employers have given up this system of feeding, while others have substituted cut hay and pulped roots, using only a proportion of barley chaff with their corn. With these alterations in the diet the number of cases of Enteritis and other affections of the digestive organs have considerably diminished.

Increased attention to sanitary arrangements has, to a large extent, prevented, controlled, and lessened the mortality of many epidemic diseases, notably Influenza, and other affections of the respiratory organs. Where large numbers of horses were crowded together in stables neither ventilated nor drained, these diseases committed sad havoc. Stables are now constructed under the modern laws of hygiene, and have a sufficient supply of pure air and light, with a proper system of drainage. Of no less importance is it to attend to the water supply of animals. This was formerly in many cases derived from pits but little better than cess-pools; but horse-keepers have learned the value of a pure running stream or spring.

The number of cases of Black Leg or Black Quarter (symptomatic anthrax) has materially decreased of late. This is probably due to animals being kept in a thriving condition, so that at no period during their lives do they experience a sudden change from poor to over much and nutritious food.

The disease among cows known as Black or Red Water was very prevalent in winter, especially when the animals were fed on roots grown on wet or impoverished soils; it has now become far less frequent in my practice. This is to be mainly attributed to the more effectual drainage and better cultivation of our lands.

Scarcely a disease among the bovine species is more amenable to prophylactic treatment (contagious diseases excepted) than Parturient Apoplexy. I believe by witholding food of a stimulating or indigestible nature, the exhibition of a few saline purges, and the abstraction of a fair quantity of blood immediately previous to calving, the disease can be modified in intensity, if not altogether prevented. As an illustration of the beneficial effect of bleeding I may cite the following:—An employer of mine whose cows were very susceptible to Milk Fever (probably on account of his high feeding) regularly bled them prior to calving, and I never attended a fatal case after he adopted this procedure. This practice was, however, discontinued, and in less than six months I was called to treat two cases that terminated fatally in 12 hours. My own herd of Red Polls affords another illustration of the protective efficacy of bleeding. The great-grand-dam of my present stock had three attacks of Milk Fever, to the last of which she succumbed. Several of her progeny were similarly susceptible. For the last 10 years I have withdrawn about 12 pints of blood from the animal a short time before calving, and since this treatment has been followed a fatal case has never occurred.

The losses incurred among pregnant ewes due to dietary errors have been very heavy. It was the custom among flock-owners during the latter periods of gestation to allow their ewes far too large a quantity of roots, without sufficient dry food. This being insufficient in itself to meet the requirements of both dam and fœtus, not only abortion and premature births followed, but also often a state of general paralysis (locally known as Staggers), caused from anœmia of the brain. A small quantity of roots, a liberal allowance of artificial food with cut hay, and a fair amount of exercise have now been productive of wonderful results.

I have endeavoured to show, in a few instances only, the manner in which we have been successful in the prevention of disease and lessening of its mortality by attention to dietetics, sanitation, and other prophylactic measures, and it now remains for me to briefly record the progress attained in some branches of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

Influenza, from its great prevalence and fatal character, has always excited much interest and discussion among Veterinary Surgeons. In an essay on this subject, in the "Abstract of the Proceedings of the Veterinary Medical Association" during its first session, 1836, I find the treatment pursued and recommended consisted of bleeding the administration of aloes, and sedative medicines, with a consequently high death rate. But since its specific nature has been recognised, and repletive measures substituted, the fatal cases have been considerably reduced. I have found the thermometer of great service in detecting this disease during its incubation, the temperature invariably rising from 105 F. to 107 F. in the Thoracic form before any other diagnostic symptoms can be detected; and as early segregation of the affected animals is of the first importance in any attempt to arrest the progress of an outbreak, the value of this instrument cannot be over estimated.

No honest or impartial observer can fail to recognise the innumerable benefits conferred on mankind and the domestic animal through the introduction of Antiseptic Surgery. Sir Joseph Lister conclusively proved that the putrefaction, and infection of wounds with their evil consequences, pyœmia, septicœmia, &c., had their essential factors in the admission and developement of certain micro-organisms. The exclusion or destruction of these germs (as they are called) forms the basis and guiding principle of Antiseptic Surgery. Formerly we neglected to obey the common rules of cleanliness, and numbers of animals perished annually from some form of blood poisoning; but now by carefully removing all foreign material from a wound, providing free drainage, applying some antiseptic dressing, and protecting the parts from the deleterious contact of the atmosphere, we are enabled to treat successfully injuries that formerly frequently terminated fatally.

The retention of the Fœtal Membranes in the mare has hitherto caused much anxiety; but by mechanically detaching the Placenta, and thoroughly irrigating the uterus with water holding in solution such agents as Bichloride of Mercury, Carbolic Acid, &c., by means of a stomach pump, little fear need be apprehended.

Perhaps one of the greatest advances in practical therapeutics is the administration of the active principles of our drugs by the hypodermic, or intravenous injection. By this method we obtain the full physiological action of an agent in a minimum of time. In cases of acute pain arising from almost any cause, a few grains of the mixture of Morphia and Atropia will generally give immediate relief. In Physostigmin we possess a potent remedy for the relief of impaction of the bowels, given hypodermically in doses of from 1 to 2 drs., it increases both the peristaltic action and the secretion of the bowels, and I have frequently seen it produce an evacuation in a hour. Of course its use is contra-indicated when actual Enteritis exists. The salts of Cocaine I have found of great service as a local Anæsthetic. The introduction of a few minims of 5 per cent solution into the eye renders the removal of a foreign body, such as an oat flight (or glume), a comparatively easy task. I have also excised small fibrous growths from the horse, without casting, by previously injecting a solution of this agent at different points around the base of the tumour.

Surgery.—In Veterinary Obstetrics again we have made much progress. In cases of deformity of the pelvis of the dam, or congenital malformation and displacement of the fœtus, where the act of parturition is attended with difficuty, by modern appliance it is easy enough to remove a limb of the fœtus, and thus facilitate delivery.

The improvement in instruments has considerably aided us in Dental operations. Most Veterinary Surgeons are acquainted with the troubles that often arise from decay or irregularity of the Molars, and the difficulty hitherto experienced in their extraction or levelling. By the use of the modern tooth shear and forceps, with a little manipulation and strength, these difficulties can be surmounted.

In dealing with Flatulent Colic, surgery has materially assisted us. In the summer months, where horses are allowed to devour a quantity of wet, succulent grass (after a long fast) it frequently undergoes fermentation, thus producing over-distention of the bowels from the gases evolved. I have repeatedly seen animals die in this condition from rupture of the bowels, or from the pressure of the abdominal viscera on the thoracic cavity. In such cases now, where extreme dyspnœa exist, I at once proceed to puncture the bowel at the most prominent part of the right side with a fine trocar; in most instances the relief has been immediate, and the results most gratifying.

I will conclude by relating the history of

AN OUTBREAK OF "ACTINOMYKOSIS."

which has occurred in my practice:—

The disease has been found to be due (thanks to the investigations of Bollinger and others) to a minute fungus, the actinomyces, the spores of which on being implanted in a suitable soil, grow and propagate.

The ravages of this pest are not confined to our domestic animals, several cases having been reported in the human subject. Strange to say, in mankind, it has a marked tendency to produce suppuration; in our animals to the formation of tumours and tumour-like nodules.

Both Johne and Ponfick have been successful in transmitting the disease by inoculation from one of the bovine species to another, thus proving it to be of a contagious nature. The history of this outbreak tends to the same conclusion; but it is most difficult to account for the number of isolated cases we so frequently encounter.

The ox is the animal most commonly affected; but Professor MacFadyean has lately demonstrated the presence of this parasite in the growth removed from the spermatic cord of a horse, and he is inclined to believe that many of the so-called "Scirrhus Cords" are of this origin. Professor Axe contributed some valuable information upon Actinomykosis in 1882. That the prognosis and nature of this malady were little known by the majority of Practitioners is shown by the answers given to the questions, and published in the "Veterinarian" at that time. The anterior portions of the digestive and respiratory tract seems to be the favourite seat of the disease. When affecting the tongue it was formerly known by such names as Scirrhus, Cancer, Glossitis, Tubercular Stomatitis, &c. Various theories have been advanced as to the mode in which the fungus gains admission into the deeper structures of the tissues. Some consider an abrasion of the mucous membrane necessary, while others believe it quite possible for the spores to enter by way of the small ducts of the glands.

As a result of the irritation and consequent inflammation occasioned by this endophyte, various degenerative changes occur. The tongue at first becomes enlarged, and beneath the mucous membrane can be felt small nodules, either confluent or discrete, and varying in size from a millet seed to that of a walnut. These subsequently soften, and discharge a cheesy-looking substance, leaving a ragged ulcer, from the base of which luxuriant granulations arise. The organ now becomes diminished in size, from the growth and contraction of fibrous tissue, and atrophy of the muscular elements.

If the disease is allowed to run its course the animal usually succumbs either to inanition, or to secondary growths invading some of the deeper structures.

The farm on which this outbreak of Actinomykosis appeared is healthily situated, adjoining the sea, and consists mainly of a light chalky soil.

The disease was first recognised in 1882, when several animals were affected and slaughtered.

In 1885 four bullocks were taken, and suffered a similar fate. I detected a large growth invading the walls of the abomasum in one of these, which a microscopical examination proved to be an Actinomykotic tumour. No further case was reported until 1887.

About 20 bullocks were then purchased in the beginning of the summer, and grazed on the marshes by the sea. They were taken into the yards at the commencement of the winter (October), one lot being retained at the home farm, and the other sent to the field barn, about a mile distant. They were attended to by different men, so that there was no communication between the two yards. Their food consisted of sliced roots, chopped ensilage, barley chaff, and cake.

On December 3rd the man at the barn observed one of the animals to have a difficulty in masticating his food, and to be discharging a quantity of saliva. During the two or three following days he ate but very little, and on seeing him on the 26th I had no difficuly in diagnosing it to be a case of Actinomykosis.

The bullock was in rather a poor condition, the tongue was much swollen, and protruded from the mouth. It was hard and tender to the touch, and in the middle third were two large superficial erosions, with ragged edges. The sides and dorsum generally were studded with nodules of different sizes, which on being incised were found to contain a quantity of caseating material. On closer inspection by means of the microscope, this was found to consist mostly of degenerated cells and actinomyces in various stages of development. A few days after three other animals were discovered to be affected, and as two of these were in good condition they were sold to the butcher. About this time (December 9th) the disease was detected in two of tho beasts at the home-farm, and they were immediately isolated. In the latter part of December 10 beasts were bought from a dealer and placed with those at the home farm. On February 16th (that is seven weeks after) the attention of the ower was directed to two of the newly-purchased animals, and their symptoms being suspicious, he had them removed at once, and communicated with me. One of these had the disease in a very acute form, the free portion of the tongue being literally covered with ulcers. The hard palate was also affected at the spot where it came in contant with the diseased structures. The following is a short outline of the treatment I have successfully pursued:—The animals have been cast and the nodules incised; scraping I have found insufficient. After all hœmorrhage has ceased, the tongue has been cleansed with a sponge. I then thoroughly saturate the parts with Iodized Phenol, applied with a brush. After the lapse of two or three days I repeat the operation. In some of the cases I have treated on this farm and elsewhere, two dressings have been sufficient to effect a cure, whilst in other instances where the tongue and adjacent structures have become extensively involved before I had been called in to attend, I have found it necessary to make three or four applications.

Remarks.—The chief points of interest deducible from the above are—

Firstly—The number of animals affected. During the winters of 1885 and 1886 and 1887 and 1888 twelve bullocks suffered from Actinomykosis. I also detected the disease in the tongue of a sheep on the same farm. If the food was the vehicle through which the virus gained access to the mouth, then either the root or ensilage must have been the medium through which it was conveyed, as the supply for both sheep and bullocks was from the same source.

Secondly—The time that elapsed, after the second lot of beasts (those bought of the dealer) had been herded with those at the home farm, before a case occurred, was seven weeks. This may furnish us with some guide as to the period of incubation. Possibly an experienced observer would have detected the malady in these animals at least a fortnight before the attendant; and, supposing them to have become affected during the first week after their arrival, the disease then would require about a month to become developed.

Lastly.—The uniform success that has attended the treatment adopted. The six bullocks placed under my care recovered, and were ultimately sold fat to the butcher, the other six having been slaughtered through the owner's request, being in good condition. I have tried the use of Bichloride of Mercury, Eucalyptus oil, Salicylic acid, and Nitrate of Silver, but none of these agents have proved so effective as Iodized Phenol. Applied in sufficient quality it is perfectly innocuous, whether swallowed, absorbed into the system, or inhaled into the air passages. In addition to its specific action when brought into direct contact with the fungus, it is also of great value for its anæsthetic and penetrating qualites.

Gentlemen,—I thank you for your patient attention to these crude and imperfect remarks. I have endeavoured to lay before you some of the advancements in the veterinary art; but those to which I have referred must be considered simply as illustrations. And, although there is much cause for satisfaction, I mnst not forget to mention, in the midst of many successes we have instances of comparative failure. The Practice of Medicine is ultimately the practical application of Therapeutic agents, and it is by the careful study of these that some of the greatest victories are to be gained by the coming race. By experiments on the lower animals much has been done in the past; more requires to be done in the future. But here our Government steps in and says, "No, you shall not make such experiments. Let cattle diseases carry off our cattle by thousands, let the human race be decimated by pestilence, let our children die in scores of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and measles, you shall not, even to save them, touch our cats and dogs." And so for the present this hopeful field of inquiry, to some extent, must be abandoned.

Mr. Banham opened the discussion by a tribute of praise to Mr. Hammond for his extremely interesting paper. In reference to barley haulm as a feeding material he considered that though it might be used, mixed with other substances for cattle, it was not a desirable provender for horses. In the days of flail-thrashing it might have been less injurious as then it was bruised and softened. As to the use of the thermometer in practice he valued it highly, but it was too often supposed to be a direct means of diagnosing disease, whereas its only use was to detect a rise of temperature, and thus show before any other symptoms were apparent that disease of some kind existed. The president's remarks on Actinomycosis he looked upon not merely as interesting but as a valuable contribution to the pathology of the question.

Especially would he draw attention to the statement that about a month was the probable period of incubation. He might also state that the common wens, found on and behind the jaw of cattle, had been found to contain actinomycoses and should be treated as that disease. Concerning vivisection he would only say that no one objected more than he did to its abuse. He considered no class experiments on living animals should be permitted, and no other experiments until the subject to which they referred had been thoroughly considered, and clear definite ideas formed as to the value of the operation desired and its probable effect. Under such circumstances, experiments on animals were justifiable and necessary; their prohibition simply was an obstacle to scientific progress, and to the general welfare of animal and man.

Mr. OVERED said he felt deeply indebted to the President for his paper, and would like to ask a few question with a view to further information. As to bleeding as a prophylactic for parturient apoplexy, the question arose, how long before calving should the operation be performed? (the President said—"as soon as possible, or even directly after.") His practice was the same, but the difficulty was to guess the exact time. He related a case in which he had advised bleeding, but it was not carried out and fatal attacks occured. Afterwards bleeding was adopted and with perfect success. He had in cases of flatulent colic tried puncturing the bowels, but not always with success—perhaps it might be that he had not adopted the practice sufficiently early.

Mr. TURNER, who had practiced in Lincolnshire, and the fenny districts, in reply to questions from the members related the procedure adopted to cure wens. The animal was firmly secured, then Sulphuric Acid was poured upon a brick and the wen rubbed with it for ten minutes. A large scab formed which become detached, and the rest of the wen was absorbed. His experience was chiefly applicable to young animals.

Mr. REYNOLDS said he also, had had experience of this method of treatment, but as it always resulted in a large blemish, he had given it up, and now adopted the plan of plugging the wen with one or more plugs of Corrosive Sublimate. This led to the formation and escape of a core, after which the tumour abated, and little blemish resulted.

Mr. WRAGG quite endorsed the President's remarks as to bleeding in the prevention of parturient apoplexy. He had seen very good results from it. In his experience Alderney's were the breed most susceptible to the disease, and he considered some families exhibited distinctly hereditary predisposition to it. He could not sit down without paying a high compliment to the President for his paper, which was not only extremely interesting but most instructive.

Mr. REYNOLDS asked if any gentleman had any experience of inter-tracheal injection for Hoose in calves. He had only twice tried it and should be glad to hear more extensive experience.

Mr. BARCHAM replied that he had an outbreak extending to 65 cases in which he had adopted it and only one died. He used the injection twice with an interval of one day. The instrument and the material were both obtained from Messrs. Willows & Francis, and he followed the directions printed upon the bottle. So satisfied was he with the results that he should certainly continue the same treatment.

A vote of thanks was heartily awarded to the President, who modestly replied that he was astonished at the kindness of the members and really had not valued his paper as much as the meeting seemed to do.

The next Meeting will take place early in February at Norwich, when it is hoped that a large increase in the number of members of the Society will have been secured.

Both the President and Mr. Barcham the Secretary seem determined to widen the Society, and to add to its usefulness and importance.

STUDENTS' COLUMN.

SIR,

I have great pleasure in repeating the hope expressed by your correspondent "Second Year" that the "Student's Corner" of your paper will be made good use of, and I hope Mr. Editor that you will widen that corner in proportion as you find its value appreciated by those for whom it is intended.

As you say that it is open for the ventilation of any "supposed grievance" I should like to air what is felt by the Students of the Scotch Colleges to be a grievance "in facto." I refer to the fact that all our Examinations are Oral, a written being denied us in all except the Preliminary.

Why not follow the plan adopted (and that after a full trial of the entirely Oral scheme) by most of the Medical Schools and the Universities, viz., first a written, and following it, an Oral?

Examinations are at the best but a poor gauge of our knowledge, and in the interests of progress in raising the standard of veterinary education they should, I think, be made as full tests as possible.

Again, from the candidates point of view, what a boon to those men who so often get "stuck" from sheer nervousness. I have known men very well up in their work who have failed two and three times in succession from this cause, and I know more than one hard, intelligent worker who has had to relinquish his chosen career.

Such men would no doubt do better on paper, and having passed the written, would not only have more confidence in facing the second ordeal, but would have exhibited some of their knowledge, and thus probably have "saved their necks."

We most of us expected something in this direction with the advent of the new Court of Examiners lately appointed, especially as it contains some gentlemen who have sat on the Medical boards.

I should like to write more but fear to trespass on your space, and my chief object in writing is in the hope of drawing forth the opinions of some London men on the subject.

Yours truly,
E. P. EDWARDS.

Derby Road, Nottingham.

A Prize of 5s. will be given for the best written answer to each of the following questions :—

Questions

1. How do you take the temperature of a horse? What is normal; and what difference in principle determines the difference in scale of Farenheit, Centigrade and Reaumur.
2. Where do you take the pulse in the Horse, Ox, Sheep, Pig or Dog? What is the normal number per minute in each animal?

Note.—In answering questions please do not wander, confine yourself to the question.

There is a falling off this week in the number of replies.

Last Week's Questions.

Prizes for last weeks questions have been awarded —for 1st question to E. P. Edwards, 2nd to R. J. Bushnell of Chester.

No competitor must have been more than two sessions at College. Answers must reach us not later than Wednesday morning. The competitions are open only to veterinary pupils and students. Each answer must be signed in full with name and address. If a pupil, state who with; if a student, state at what College. We trust to men's honor not to receive any help in preparing their answers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Original articles and reports should be written on one side only of the paper, and authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers, not necessarily for publication.

We shall be obliged by early intelligence of all matters worth bringing under the notice of the profession, and thankful to any friends who may send us cuttings from local papers, containing facts of interest.

EDINBURGH, 21st July 1888.

SIR,

At the recent meeting of the National Veterinary Association at Newcastle, the President in his address read and commented upon a number of veterinary "Queries" and "Answers" taken, he stated, from the columns of an agricultural newspaper. He did not mention by name the author of these answers, hut he stated they were written by a member of the veterinary profession, who was also a professor. On the second day of the meeting I was informed that a well-known member of the association had been circulating the statement that I was the among the author of the answers in question, in proof of which he exhibited an announcement that appeared some time ago in *The Farming World* to the effect that I had been appointed veterinary editor of that paper.

I trust that you will allow me through the columns of your paper to state—(1) that I did not write the answers quoted by the President, that I have no knowledge whatever regarding them, and (2) that the announcement referred to appeared without my knowledge and without my consent. While I was out of town during the last Christmas vacation, the proprietor of *The Farming World* was informed by a friend of mine, to whom he applied, that I would be willing to write veterinary articles for that paper, and undertake certain other literary work that he had in view. On the strength of this. an announcement that I had been appointed veterinary editor appeared in the next issue of the paper. Having learned this on my return to town, I wrote (9th January) to the proprietor of *The Farming World* declining to undertake the duties of veterinary editor, and stating that the promise had been made under misapprehension, both as to the nature and the extent of the work.

Now I do not in the least blame Professor Williams for having led the meeting to believe that I wrote the articles quoted by him, for if they were taken from *The Farming World* he had good ground for believing that. I regret, however, that he did not take the course of mentioning the supposed author by name, and I consider that his refusal to allow me to make this denial on the second day of the meeting lays his conduct open to the suspicion that his motives were not quite so lofty as some may at the moment have supposed them to be.

In conclusion, let me say that the announcement in *The Farming World* was not contradicted because I was led to believe that the circulation of the paper might be injuriously affected, if an intimation, made one week regarding its management, had to be contradicted the next.

In consenting to this I was perhaps too careless of my own reputation, but that is hardly a matter of interest to anyone but myself.

Your Obedient Servant,

J. McFADYEAN.

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